These stupas are similar on plan to those found at Sarnath, Varanasi (U.P.), but differ in detail.

World Heritage site

3. SHRI RUDRA NARAYANA PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhubaneswar is proposed to be declared a World Heritage City;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the ASI to the UNESCO for award of such status;

(c) whether the ASI has also recommended other sites for WHS status in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Deterioration of Konark Temple

4. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the structure of Konark Temple and its magnificent celestial chariot and stone sculpture is fast turning into a colossal ruin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 25 per cent of its sculptural embellishment etched on inert stones, have been defaced by erosion and lost forever;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for neglecting maintenance of the temple; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to preserve the heritage of this temple?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The architectural members of the temple built of Khondolite, a soft stone, is subject to constant wind action as the temple is located close to the sea. The salt laden sea wind causes surface damage to the stone members. This also causes crystallization of soluble salts leading to weathering and corrosion of the stone members.

Following remedial measures are adopted regularly to control weathering of stone members and to conserve the heritage.

(i) Soluble salts are removed by repeated paper pulp treatment.

(ii) Micro-vegetational and fungicidal growth are being treated chemically.

(iii) The weathering effects are minimized through stone consolidation.

(iv) Water tightening and underpinning of the structure are carried out using traditional mortar.

(v) Missing stone members of the adhishtana were restored using the original stone members found scattered in the temple complex or with new stones, if necessary.

Seepage in Mahabodhi Temple

5. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water seepage damaged even the flagship Mahabodhi Temple;

(b) if so, whether condition of Mahabodhi Temple and its complex needs superficial repairs;

(c) whether maintenance of this temple has been neglected by ASI/ Nagar Panchayat/Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee/HUDCO;

(d) whether a plan was prepared by HUDCO to revamp the temple;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for delay; and